

## **Frequently Asked Questions About the Speed Camera Program**

### **What are speed cameras?**

Speed cameras are traffic enforcement devices that, when a vehicle traveling 12 or more miles per hour over the speed limit passes, a camera will automatically record a speeding violation. After a Village photo-analyst reviews the results, a citation may then be mailed to the owner of the vehicle as determined by the license plate.

### **Will there be a warning period?**

A 30-day warning period began March 12, 2007.

### **What are the fines for violation?**

The fine for each violation is \$40. No points will be assigned to a driving record for conviction.

### **Where do I pay my fine?**

Citations may be paid online, by mail or in person as noted on each violation notice. Details are included on each violation notice.

### **How may I contest my fine?**

Citations can be contested in Maryland District Court. Details are included on each violation notice.

### **Why is the Village using speed cameras?**

Traffic safety is a high priority for Chevy Chase Village. The Village believes cameras are effective in reducing speeding on residential streets. Speeding is a significant public safety problem both in Montgomery County and around the state. In 2005, 214 people were killed in speeding-related crashes in Maryland, with at least 16 of those deaths occurring in Montgomery County. A recent poll conducted in Montgomery County by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety found that 74 percent of respondents believe that speeding is a problem on residential streets and 59 percent favored the use of speed cameras.

### **Where else will speed cameras be used?**

Montgomery County and the municipalities of the Cities of Rockville and Gaithersburg are developing speed camera enforcement programs as authorized under a 2006 Maryland law.

### **How will the money from the fines be used?**

Maryland law requires the Village to designate money from speed camera fines for public safety programs and improving pedestrian safety.

**How long will speed cameras be in use?**

The Montgomery County Council has been directed to report to the Maryland General Assembly on the effectiveness of speed monitoring systems in Montgomery County. This report is due in 2009.

**How many speed cameras will the Village use?**

The Village initially plans to use two fixed speed cameras and two portable cameras that can be moved to different locations.

**How will I know if I am in a speed camera zone?**

“Photo enforced” signs under speed limit signs on the designated roads will alert drivers that speed cameras may be in use in that area. In addition, signs will be posted at the Village limits. The Village is also publicizing the locations of its cameras through its newsletter, Crier and its website at [www.chevychasevillagemd.gov](http://www.chevychasevillagemd.gov) as well as the news media.

**Where do I call if I have a question about the speed camera program?**

Contact the program’s customer service line at 1-866-818-3844.

**How do I transfer liability?**

You must provide a sworn statement stating that you were not operating the vehicle at the time the violation occurred. You must also provide the name, current address and if possible the driver’s license number of the person who was operating the vehicle. An example of a sworn statement is *“I swear and affirm that I was not operating the vehicle at the time of the violation. The person operating the vehicle was \_\_\_\_ and their address is \_\_\_\_.”* Additionally, you must sign your statement to make it valid.

**How do I obtain a flag release (VR119) for my vehicle?**

Once you have satisfied your citation(s) you may obtain a flag release by calling 1-866-818-3844 or by going to the customer service center located at 4040 Blackburn Lane, Suite 200, Burtonsville, MD 20866. If you are at MVA you may call the 1-866-818-3844 phone number and a copy of the flag release can be faxed over to their office. MVA will only accept a fax copy from the customer service center or a police department.